

Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

-An Innovative Attempt toward Food Security and Agricultural Development in Africa –



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a side event on 3 June at the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel on the theme of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). In addition to the Burkina Faso Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, the World Bank, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

were welcomed as co-chairs, and more than 150 related parties participated. Vice President Tsuneo Kurokawa served as co-chair from JICA, and the status of rice development in Africa as well as visions for the future of rice development in Africa was discussed.

In the wake of TICAD IV that was held in 2008, to celebrate the halfway point of the decade that started with the goal to double rice production in sub-Saharan Africa in 10 years (rice-based from 14 to 28 million tons), this side event was held with the aim to broadly share with stakeholders the direction of the next five years as well as to look back on activities of the previous five years. In addition, focus points have been addressed about the expected role of government and private sector for the promotion of private investment essential to the development of the African agriculture sector further in the future.

In this side event, first there was a presentation from Takanori Satoyama, coordinator of CARD secretariat. Items were reported such as (1) In 23 CARD countries, a National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) was formulated under the ownership of each national Ministry of Agriculture, (2) On the basis of NRDS, implementation of a business plan conscious of the entire value chain is required, and (3) Promotion of private investment and public-private partnerships is the key. There was a presentation on "the possibility of a Green Revolution in Africa" from Keiji Otsuka, Professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and based on survey results related to implemented rice productivity and cultivation methods in four countries within the region (Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda), for irrigation in some areas high yields are being achieved which can already be called a "green revolution". The need for introduction of appropriate cultivation techniques and high-yield seed varieties, fertilizer and agricultural machinery was emphasized according to the characteristics of the region. On behalf of the African governments, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security in Burkina Faso, Mahma Zoungrana took the stage. While introducing the progress of

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development in Burkina Faso and initiatives related to the Bagure Growth Corridor, G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, he showed recognition of the status of rice in the agricultural sector and its importance not only for food security but also in terms of the livelihood improvement of small-scale farmers, which account for the majority of people in each country. The case of private investment and public-private partnerships were shared by Geoffrey Israel Kirenga, CEO of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania(SAGCOT) and Desmond Sheehy, CIO of the Duxton Asset, an investment company with its head office based in Singapore. Necessity of sustainable project implementation with mutual benefits achieved for the three parties of small-scale farmers, government and private business was emphasized, and there was a demand made to each government for the development of necessary investment environments such as taxation and land registration in order to promote further investment from the private sector. Furthermore, Amartey S. B. Teetteh, National President of Ghana Agri-Input Dealers Association(GAIDA) and Yoshinori Kishida, President of Shin-Norinsha Co.,Ltd. introduced the importance of small and medium businesses and agricultural mechanization.

In the co-chair summary, with highly appreciating the efforts of CARD which has respected the ownership of each national Ministry of Agriculture, there was hope for future national rice production development strategy to be materialized as a part of the investment plan of each country's agricultural policy in a manner that promotes private investment and public-private partnerships. JICA continues to contribute to food security in Africa through rice production development, livelihood improvement of small-scale farmers and the development of human resources for sustainable agricultural development.

【Co-chairs】

- Severin Kodderitzsch, Sector Manager, Agriculture, Rural Development and Irrigation, World Bank
- Tsuneo Kurokawa, Vice President, JICA
- Mahma Zoungrana, Minister for Agriculture & Food Security, Burkina Faso
- Jane Karuku, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- Robert Ziegler, Director General, International Rice Research Institute
- Martin Bwalya, Head of Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program, the New Partnership for Africa's Development

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【Speakers】

- Mahama Zoungrana, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Burkina Faso
- Keijiro Otsuka, Professor, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
- Desmond Sheehy, CIO, the Duxton Asset Management
- Amartey S. B. Tetteh, National President, the Ghana Agri-Import Dealers Association (GAIDA)
- Yoshinori Kishida, President, Shin-Norinsha Co., Ltd
- Geoffrey Israel Kirenga, CEO, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) Center, Ltd.
- Takanori Satoyama, General Coordinator, CARD Secretariat